

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for "International Disaster Assistance", \$160,000,000, for rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Mozambique, Madagascar, and southern Africa, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for nonproject assistance: *Provided further*, That prior to any obligation of funds appropriated under this heading, the Administrator of the Agency for International Development shall provide the Committees on Appropriations with a detailed report containing the amount of the proposed obligation and a description of the programs and projects, on a country-by-country basis, to be funded with such amount: *Provided further*, That up to \$12,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading may be charged to finance obligations for which appropriations available under chapter 1 and 10 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 were initially charged for assistance for rehabilitation and reconstruction for Mozambique, Madagascar, and southern Africa: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, up to \$5,000,000 may be used for administrative expenses, including auditing costs, of the Agency for International Development associated with the assistance furnished under this heading: *Provided further*, That the entire amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That the entire amount provided shall be available only to the extent an official budget request that includes designation of the entire amount of the request as an emergency requirement as defined in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, is transmitted by the President to the Congress.

AMENDMENT NO. 46 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 46 offered by Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas:

Page 132, after line 12, insert the following:

TITLE VII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

LIMITATION ON FUNDS FOR COUNTRIES THAT USE CHILDREN AS SOLDIERS

SEC. 701. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to the government of a country that—

(1) conscripts children under the age of 18 into the military forces of the country; or

(2) provides for the direct participation of children under the age of 18 in armed conflict.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, July 12, 2000, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and a Member opposed to the amendment each will control 10 minutes.

Does the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN) rise in opposition to the amendment?

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment,

and I reserve a point of order on the gentlewoman's amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The point of order is reserved.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I think anyone of good conscience would have rather not come to the floor of the House to debate an issue such as this, the conscripting of our children, the world's children, to fight bloody and disastrous and devastating battles around the world.

This is an issue of worldwide need. It is an issue for Vietnam. It is an issue for South and Central America. It is an issue for the continent of Africa.

I understand, Mr. Chairman, that the distinguished gentleman, the chairman of this committee, has reserved a point of order. I had asked that on this particular instance we waive the point of order because of the enormous devastation.

I also realize that the funding or the drafting of the language of this particular amendment is particularly direct and strong and harsh, for it reads that it would eliminate all funding for those who conscript children.

Let me give the basis of this, as well as to say that my commitment to this is so strong that I am hoping that my colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations and the conference committee and those representing this particular subcommittee will work with me as we move this bill toward conference, ultimately at some point to be able to design disincentives that might also do similarly the same job: to discourage, to stop, to cease, to end the taking of our babies and putting them into war.

Just last week I joined the President of the United States, a number of ambassadors, and Members of the United States Congress at the United Nations in signing an international protocol against the use of children in war, in prostitution, and pornography.

Why is that necessary? Might I lend to the RECORD one story or a number of stories. One boy tried to escape from the rebels but he was caught. "His hands were tied and then they made us," the other new captives, "kill him with a stick. I felt sick. I knew this boy from before. We were from the same village. I refused to kill him, and they told me they would shoot me. They pointed a gun at me, so I had to do it. The boy was asking me, 'Why are you doing this?' I said, 'I have no choice.' After we killed him, they made us smear his blood on our arms."

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They said we had to do this so we would not fear death, and so we would not try to escape. I still dream about the boy from my village who I killed. I see him in my dreams, and he is talk-

ing to me and saying I killed him for nothing. And I am crying. Susan was age 16. She was abducted into the army, by the Lord's Resistance Army. This is what our children are going through in their respective horror and the evilness of taking children whose lives should be full of joy and happiness.

All we are doing is condemning them to a life of misery, if they are not killed themselves in battle. Their minds are so warped with the viciousness of what has happened. They are destroyed forever.

It is estimated this year that some 300,000 children under the age of 18 are engaged in armed military conflicts in more than 30 countries. Sadly, far too many of these wonderful children are forcibly conscripted through kidnapping or coercion, and the others join because of economic necessity to avenge the loss of a family member or for their own personal safety.

There are so many stories of children being abused in this way, and I do want to acknowledge the leadership of the Members of the Subcommittee of Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs of the Committee on Appropriations, the chairman, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN), the ranking member, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the other Members of the committee, now the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) who is controlling the time, realizing that these are issues that have been vigorously discussed.

Mr. Chairman, I do believe we must do something about it. The protocol that was signed last week extends much needed protection for children. I cannot imagine that parents here in America would not have their hearts broken and their hearts extended to those victimized children who are being forced into a vicious war. I believe it is time for us now to do the strongest of rejection of those who do so, which would be to address them where it hurts, and that is in the pocketbook.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that we have done many things on the floor that I have supported, debt relief, HIV protection; but how can we stand as our children are conscripted involuntarily or for the basis of economic necessity?

Mr. Chairman, I rise to extend my strong support for this amendment that, if approved, could enormously enhance the lives of our children being cruelly used as soldiers around the world.

In short, this amendment would prohibit funding in the bill for nations that conscript children under the age of 18 or use child soldiers in armed conflict.

This is a small step that should be taken that this nation has now see as a priority. It is important to place this within the bill since, as a nation, we are now on record as prohibiting the inhuman practice of using children as soldiers.

Last week, I joined President Clinton, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Richard